

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12th November, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.
at Earls High School, Furnace Lane, Halesowen

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Faulkner (Chairman)
Councillor James (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Body, Burston, Crumpton, Mrs Dunn, Hill, Miss Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Shakespeare, Taylor, Mrs Turner, K Turner, Vickers and Woodall.

Officers

The Director of Finance (as Area Liaison Officer), The Assistant Director of Children's Services (Without Portfolio), The Head of Executive Support and Group Engineer (both Directorate of the Urban Environment), Mr Williams and Mr Tipping (both Directorate of Children's Services), the Interim Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic Services) and Mr Sanders (Directorate of Law and Property)

Also in Attendance

Sergeant K Jones (West Midlands Police) – for Agenda Item No. 7
Operations Commander S Vincent, Group Commander P Towers and Station Commander D Baker (all West Midlands Fire Service) – for Agenda Item No. 10

24 Members of the Public

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A personal and prejudicial interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was declared by Councillor Mrs Turner in respect of agenda item no 15 (Development of a New Sports Ground and Social Club at Land off Stewarts Road, Development of New Sports Fields and Environmental Zone at Olive Hill School and Residential Development at Land off Coombs Road and Lodgefield Road with access off Coombs Road – Planning Application PO8/1373) in view of her membership of the Development Control Committee.

A personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was declared by Councillor K Turner in respect of agenda item no 10 (Fire Service Review) in view of his membership of the West Midlands Fire Authority as a representative of the Council.

A personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was declared by Councillor Burston in agenda item no 14 (Halesowen Town Centre Development) in so far as it related to Halesowen Bus Station, in view of his employment by Centro.

A personal interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, was declared by Councillor Taylor in agenda item no 15, in view of his governorship of Olive Hill Primary School.

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th September, 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the substitution of the name of Worton Road for that of Walton Road in minute 31 (Fire Service Matters) and the substitution of the name of the Community Renewal Working Group for that of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery Working Group in the first paragraph of minute 27 (Minutes).

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JAMES GROVE RECREATION AND SPORTS GROUND TRUST –
APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted seeking consideration of a replacement representative to serve on this body for the residue of the four year period of office expiring on 20th April 2010, in consequence of the resignation of Councillor Body.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ms Partridge be appointed as the Council representative on the Trust for the residue of the period of office expiring on 30th April, 2010.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c), Agenda Item No. 7 (Police Issues) be considered as the next Item of business.

POLICE ISSUES

The following issues were raised and answered by Sergeant Jones of West Midlands Police.

In response to a question from a member regarding the need for action to be taken for the Police to observe the speed of vehicular traffic in the Huntingtree Road area, Sergeant Jones indicated such action had been put in place in August. The member who raised the issue indicated that from his own observations the problem persisted, in response to which Sergeant Jones agreed to arrange for the matter to be looked into further.

A member requested data to be provided in relation to accident rates in Hurst Green Road and other roads in that area and in Narrow Lane, further to the speed checks recently made, and Sergeant Jones indicated that this could be supplied. In relation to Hurst Green Road, another member commented on the number of accidents in the area that had occurred in recent weeks and, in acknowledging that accident prevention was a Council responsibility and that she had drawn the attention of the matter to relevant Council officers, she asked for Police attention to the matter to be given. She commented that the temporary traffic lights currently in place had not helped the situation and referred to regular incidents of vehicular speeding late at night, where perpetrators were sometimes in convoy. She considered that action from the Police was necessary to alleviate the situation.

Further to Police response times to 999 calls being raised by a member, Sergeant Jones stated that the service should be used only for life and death situations and advised that a 999 call should not be made when an immediate response was not necessary. The member who raised the issue pointed out that, in the vast majority of cases where the public contacted the Police, they had a genuine need to call them and the Police had a responsibility to the public, if only to reassure them.

A member of the public drew attention to unlawful parking by coaches at Furnace Lane. The same member of the public also reported that lorries in excess of the weight limit were travelling regularly along Furnace Lane. In response, Sergeant Jones indicated that the matters would be looked at.

Councillor Burston reported that, in his capacity as Mayor, he had attended the Police Operational Control Units Awards Ceremony at which the courage and initiative of a number of Police Officers had been honoured. The Mayor wished to place on record his appreciation of the officers who received awards at the ceremony.

RESOLVED

That the information above be noted and the actions referred to endorsed.

FIRE SERVICE REVIEW

The West Midlands Fire Service Operations Commander for the Dudley Borough, Mr Vincent, gave a presentation on a review of the Fire Service in the West Midlands, the effect of which would be to rationalise provision in the Borough, including the area within the jurisdiction of this Committee.

Under the proposals, the Fire Stations currently situated at Cradley Heath and Halesowen would be closed, and replaced by one station at a site in the area yet to be determined. In his presentation, Mr Vincent referred to the shortcomings of some existing stations, including those at Cradley Heath and Halesowen, in terms of age and design, and explained the need for the service to target resources and improve resource management to meet current demands at the same time as maintaining or improving incident response times. Over the West Midlands area, there were currently 41 fire stations and, under the proposals, 38 would remain.

In describing the local plan for the Service proposed for the Dudley Borough, Mr Vincent indicated the nature of the cover proposed to be allocated across the Borough, with two appliances to be available on a 24 hours basis at the new fire station in Cradley Heath/Halesowen. Mr Vincent emphasised that the area would not suffer a reduction in the number of appliances but that the review would redistribute them in locations where cover could be provided on the basis of areas of the most risk. More modern stock would be provided.

Mr Vincent concluded the presentation by indicating that consultation on the proposals was taking place currently and indicated that a consultation hotline had been provided for on the website of the West Midlands Fire Service.

In the discussion, reference was made to the following:-

- In response to a question by a member on the reasons for the proposal for Stourbridge to operate with only one 24 hour appliance, in comparison to two appliances at other fire stations, Mr Vincent indicated that the part of the Borough covered from Stourbridge was lower in incident risk than other areas.

- In response to a question in relation to the difficulty fire appliances sometimes had in reaching incidents through badly congested traffic, Mr Vincent indicated that response times were calculated on the basis of an average 30 mph travelling speed which could be improved on if the need arose. The Service utilised a system where the size of the appliance sent to an incident was taken into account in the context of the type of traffic anticipated on the journey. He pointed out, however, that if a person had concerns from local knowledge that appliances would have difficulty in reaching a particular location, this was the type of information that would be helpful in the consultation exercise and would be considered before a final decision was made.
- In response to a question by a member regarding the impact of objections on decision making in respect of the review, in the light of a petition of some 12,000 objections appearing not to have influenced the provision proposed for the Sedgley area, Mr Vincent responded that the provision proposed for that area under the review satisfied its needs.
- A number of members of the Committee expressed concern that they had been notified of the consultation exercise directly only through a letter from Mr Vincent dated 15th October, 2008, which had been sent to them within the last day or so. Mr Vincent explained the circumstances of the late notification.
- In response to a question about land ownership for a new site for Cradley Heath/Halesowen, Mr Vincent confirmed that no site had yet been acquired or reserved for the purpose. The Fire Service had no preconceived ideas about the location of the new Fire Station.
- On concern being expressed about the service for Halesowen, in the light of a fatality that had occurred at an incident some years previously, when an incident in the area had been attended by a 'Green Goddess' appliance sent from Oldbury, Mr Vincent indicated that this had happened at an exceptional time for the Fire Service when industrial action was taking place; that the 'Green Goddesses' had since been scrapped and that legislation introduced subsequently allowed modern appliances to be sequestered for service on incidents, should there be industrial action.
- A member of the public asked for support for a petition objecting to the closure of the two fire stations in the Halesowen area. A copy of the petition was circulated.
- In response to a question on whether the proposals had been drawn up from planning assumptions, Mr Vincent affirmed this was the case but indicated that the Service was looking for more local knowledge, which would receive consideration if supplied.

- In response to a question, Mr Vincent confirmed that the neighbouring Fire Authority of Worcestershire had been consulted on the review but that the planning assumptions for the West Midlands did not take into account the fire stations in the Worcestershire area. He made the point, however, that the response times in the West Midlands were faster than those in Worcestershire.

Following the question and answer session, Councillor K Turner, as a representative of the Council on the West Midlands Fire Authority, indicated that the issue would be considered at a meeting of that Authority to be held on 12th January, 2009 and that a public forum on this issue would be held on 21st November, 2008 at Haden Hill Leisure Centre. The forum would be attended by the Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis and the three members of the Council for the Hayley Green and Cradley South Ward. He then gave some statistical information regarding the nature of incidents responded to, and response times, in recent years. Councillor Turner also referred to the impact of the preventative work carried out by the Fire Service in reducing the number of incidents over recent years.

RESOLVED

That the presentation by Mr Vincent, together with the comments made and responses given, as indicated above, be noted and that members of the Committee and the public be encouraged to respond to the consultation document.

PUBLIC FORUM

- (a) A question was asked on the appropriateness of the location of a BMX track on recreational land at Stourbridge Road, Halesowen in the light of its potential for anti-social behaviour from groups of youths congregating there. In response, Councillor Miss Nicholls indicated that the idea had arisen from a Partnerships and Communities Together meeting in a bid to encourage local youngsters in worthwhile activity. Some 46 people at the Partnerships and Communities Together meeting had been in favour of the initiative. Miss Nicholls agreed to meet the questioner outside the meeting to discuss the matter further.
- (b) A question was asked on the enforcement of parking restrictions, in response to which the Area Liaison Officer indicated that the report requested at the previous meeting of the Committee would be submitted to the next meeting.

- (c) A question was asked on the current position with regard to the Cradley High School building, in the light of the questioner having observed the property being lit both day and night. The questioner also asked whether energy saving light bulbs had been installed at the school and asked about the impact of the cost of electricity at the school on Council Tax. The Assistant Director of Children's Services (Early Years Youth and Education Services) agreed to respond in writing to the questioner.

YOUTH SERVICE CONSULTATION

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted advising the Committee of the publication of the Youth Service Consultation document, which had been published on 7th October, 2008 and would run until 6th January 2009.

Further to the presentation made to the previous meeting, the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Without Portfolio) outlined briefly the proposals in the consultation document regarding the future structure of the Service.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which comments made by members included the following. One member expressed the view that it would have been helpful had the report incorporated a position statement on the current service. The same member considered that greater provision should be made for young people with learning difficulties, particularly those in the post 16 age group. The member had concerns that there appeared to be nothing in the document which related to provision for out of borough placements after pupils had returned to Dudley. The member also expressed concerns about a lack of provision for young people in the Cradley and Foxcote area in the light of the number of dispersal orders placed on young people who now congregated at other locations following the closure of the youth facilities at Cradley High School. Another member drew attention to a current lack of female workers in the Youth Service.

In response, the Assistant Director of Children's Services indicated that the purpose of the review was to improve provision with a view to enabling a more joined up service, which would include all agencies involved with young people, including voluntary groups, and would facilitate youth clubs in providing both the traditional recreational activities and the social issues targeted by the government. She also confirmed that the revised service would aim to provide for youth facilities across boundaries.

The Director invited all members of the Committee and the members of the public in attendance to respond in writing to the consultation document, should they have comments, and confirmed that all issues raised in the consultation would be considered.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that the comments made, as recorded above, be referred to the Director of Children's Services for consideration in the consultation process.

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CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY_ ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE – AMENDED OCTOBER 2008

A report of the Director of Children's Services was submitted on the issue of consultation on the future of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) which had been published initially on 8th September, 2008 and amended on 23rd October, 2008, further to the High Court Judgement on the judicial review of the Council's decision on the budget for the Service.

The effect of the agreed further consultation and the referral to the High Court and the subsequent referral to the High Court was that it was no longer feasible for the reduction in the EMAS budget to be implemented in the current financial year and consultation was now being undertaken on the issue of the financial support for EMAS for 2009/10. The consultation document had therefore been amended accordingly.

In introducing the report, the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Without Portfolio) clarified that the purpose of the consultation was to obtain views with the ultimate aim of advising the Council on whether the budget for Ethnic Minorities could remain constant, or be reduced or increased. Further to the reduction in the funding allocated to Local Authorities by the Government for ethnic minority purposes, the shape of current provision was being looked at and relevant staff were working alongside schools which received a funding grant for children from ethnic minority backgrounds to identify needs.

In response to a comment by one member on the content of the High Court judgement, the Interim Assistant Director of Law and Property (Legal and Democratic Services), who had conducted the Council's case in the High Court, indicated that the request for the judicial review of the Council's decision had been dismissed by the High Court Judge at the hearing in June, but that the decision had been appealed by the claimants. In response, a second High Court Judge had concluded that the claimants' case in relation to the appeal was academic. Because of the further agreed consultation and the delay caused by the referral of the issue to the High Court, however, the revised budget approved for 2008/09 was not being proceeded with and consultation was therefore being undertaken on the basis of provision for ethnic minorities for 2009/10 and future years.

Two members questioned the content of the Equality Impact incorporated with the consultation document.

RESOLVED

That the report and the comments made be noted and that members of the Committee and the members of the public at the meeting be encouraged to submit comments in writing to the consultation document, should they wish so to do.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) item number 15 on the Agenda (Development of a New Sports Ground and Social Club at land of Stewarts Road, Development of New Sports Fields and Environmental Zone at Olive Hill School and Residential Development at land off Coombs Road and Lodgefield Road with access of Coombs Road – planning application P08/1373) be considered as the next item of business.

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DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SPORTS GROUND AND SOCIAL CLUB AT LAND OFF STEWART'S ROAD, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPORTS FIELDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE AT OLIVE HILL SCHOOL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LAND OFF COOMBS ROAD AND LODGEFIELD ROAD WITH ACCESS OFF COOMBS ROAD – PLANNING APPLICATION PO8/1373

(Having declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in this item, Councillor Mrs Turner left the meeting room during consideration of the item).

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted, seeking the views of the Committee on this planning application. Three members of the public, Mr Roberts of the Friends of Coombs Wood, Mr Burgess, the Chairman of the Halesowen Abbey Trust and Mr Stringer made the following points:-

- While Coombs Wood Cricket Club were ambitious to rise to the standard of admission to the Birmingham Cricket League, he was not aware of any member of the Club being in support of the proposals. The Cricket Club's landlord, St. Modwen, allowed the club only a short lease, which had had an adverse effect on the opportunities for the club to receive external funding for improvements to their existing facilities.
- Similarly, he was not aware of any letters of support for the proposals from the parents and pupils at Olive Hill School, notwithstanding the provision in the planning application for the accommodation of two football pitches and an environment zone for the sole use of the school.

- That the land currently provided residents with the opportunity for a number of healthy pursuits, including walking, running, extensive views, relaxation, birds and wild life and cycling, all of which would be prejudiced should development proceed.
- There was substantial local concern about view points which would be lost should development proceed.
- There was substantial local concern about the scale of the proposed development.
- Coombs Wood was the last remaining open space in a densely populated area.
- When the area had been landfilled 20 years previously, the Halesowen Abbey Trust had planted some 10,000 trees, the result of which had improved the public's enjoyment of the area.
- Reference was made to the two year consultation undertaken by the Council between 1991 and 1993, which had resulted in the Coombs Wood Green Act Plan. The Chairman of the Halesowen Abbey Trust, who raised this point, expressed the view that an environmental zone was not needed, as Coombs Wood already provided one.
- Reference was made to a Green Plan produced by the Council, which included Coombs Wood.
- Football clubs which would benefit from the provision of new pitches referred to in the planning application could be accommodated at other grounds in the area.
- There were wonderful views from Coombs Wood which would be lost should development proceed. Children were able to play there without fear of traffic.
- An allegation was made that the development of the site in accordance with the planning application would be contrary to the Unitary Development Plan.
- There would be a greater loss than a gain for local people should development proceed.
- Whether Olive Hill School would be encouraged to withdraw from the proposed development at Coombs Wood should planning permission be not granted, as this would help prevent a costly appeal, was raised.

Members of the Council then commented on the planning application, in relation to which the following points were made:-

- That the application would lead to the total destruction of green belt land. The member who raised the issue indicated her personal intention to object to the application.
- The approval of the application would lead to not only a loss of recreational amenity but to further traffic issues in a residential area.
- The proposals for housing development would add to the urban sprawl.
- The Cricket Club had been prevented from expanding as a result of the short leases granted by the developers.
- While it was noted that provision for premises for a new Cricket Club would be provided, in effect, the facility would comprise a Social Club and planning permission would be granted essentially for a public house rather than a cricket ground.
- Stewart Road and Lodgefield Road were not appropriate for the increase in traffic that would result.
- The area was currently safe for children to play in and ride bicycles and this would alter should planning consent be granted.
- Recreational facilities such as walking, dog walking and children's play would be lost should development proceed.
- The loss of the present cricket ground would represent a loss of recreational amenity in the Borough.
- Outline planning permission might result in the nature of the development being changed later in terms of the density of properties for which detailed planning consent would be applied for in the future.
- That the Cricket Club was well established and that it was unfair only to allow it short leases leaving it unable to attract funding.
- Neither the topography of the land nor the substance of the soil lent itself to development for the purposes in the planning application. The member of the Committee who raised this issue suggested that the Development Control Committee should make a site visit and look at these facets.
- The retention of the Cricket Ground at its current location was advocated.

RESOLVED

That the comments above be referred to the Development Control Committee when the application for planning consent for the scheme is under consideration.

56

WARD ISSUES

- (a) Councillor Body advocated that the changing rooms at the former Cradley High School be re-opened for use by the public, in the light of the cost of provision of the mobile changing rooms provided for in replacement. In relation to precedent, he instanced the case of the Valley Road School where the gymnasium had remained open after the school had been closed. Councillor Body also referred to the cost involved in maintaining security at the former school premises.

In response, the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Without Portfolio) confirmed the necessity for security at the school to be maintained, drawing particular attention to Council's duty of care and responsibility for health and safety requirements. The caretaker had remained on site but this was a temporary expedient. Fourteen groups which had utilised the former high school premises were being offered alternative accommodation. Meanwhile, options for the future use of the site were being considered.

A member of the public also raised the cost of security at Cradley High School, reiterating the point she had made earlier in the meeting that the building had continued to be lit notwithstanding that it was boarded up.

At the request of the Chairman, the Assistant Director of Children's Services agreed to submit a written reply to Councillor Body and to provide the member of the public who raised the issue of the lighting with a copy of the response.

- (b) Councillor K Turner sought the support of the Committee for a Play Pathfinder scheme for the provision of a play area at the rear of properties at Beeches View Road, Cradley.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Children's Services be advised that an application for a Play Pathfinder scheme for this purpose be supported by this Committee.

- (c) Councillor Crumpton reported that street lights in Foredraft Street, Rossendale Close and Highfields Road had been vandalised. The matter was referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for attention.

- (d) Councillor Crumpton reported that, further to the provision of street lights at the alley way between Windmill Hill and Spring Street, the electricity supply was awaited. The matter was referred to the Director of the Urban Environment for attention.
- (e) Councillor Crumpton expressed the view that he could see no reason why the changing rooms at the former Cradley High School could not continue to be used by the public, pending the disposal of the building. The same point was made by Councillor Ms Partridge.
- (f) Councillor Ms Partridge referred to a reduction in the percentage of pupils in the Cradley and Foxcote ward attaining the benchmark figure of 5 A*-C GCSE results in number. The matter was referred to the Director of Children's Services for investigation.

57

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted setting out responses to questions asked at the meeting of the Committee held on 4th September, 2008.

In relation to the issue of the inclusion of the Chairman of the Area Committee in the membership of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery Working Group, as referred to in paragraph 3 of the report, members indicated their acceptance of the membership of the Chairman of the Committee on an 'ex-officio' basis.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted, together with the viewpoint of members on the ex-officio membership of the Chairman of the Area Committee on the Cradley/Windmill Hill Regeneration Plan Delivery Working Group, as recorded above.

58

DELEGATED CAPITAL BUDGET

A report of the Area Liaison Officer was submitted seeking consideration of applications for grants from the Capital Budget Allocation of the Committee, and matters associated therewith.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a grant in the sum of £3900 be made to the Providence Methodist Church towards the cost of providing fencing at both ends of the driveway to deter anti-social behaviour, which will be developed into a Peace Garden for community use.

- (2) That the action of the Area Liaison Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition spokesperson, in approving an allocation in the sum of £200 for a new black litter bin outside the flats in Pickersleigh Close, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report now submitted, be noted and endorsed.
- (3) That a grant in the sum of £720 to the Dudley Community ROUTES – Barnados for a receiver/DVD combination unit and a four drawer filing cabinet be approved.
- (4) That a grant in the sum of £5000 be made to the Air Training Corps 223 (Halesowen) Squadron towards the cost of a replacement minibus, subject to the remaining funds being raised by the Air Training Corps.
- (5) That approval in principle be given to a grant in the sum of £2500 being made to Cradley Town Football Club towards the provision of disabled toilet facilities for use by spectators and users of the Beeches Social Club, subject to the club raising match funding and providing further financial and other information to the satisfaction of the Area Liaison Officer.

HALESOWEN TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on progress regarding developments taking place in Halesowen Town Centre.

In expanding on the information contained in the report, the Head of Executive Support in the Directorate of the Urban Environment confirmed the opening date of the new bus station as being 14th December, 2008; gave details of the car parking arrangements and the short stay parking charge at the new Asda Superstore; indicated the date of the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town centre of 15th November, 2008; and reported that the Sandvik Christmas tree at the top of the High Street would be lit from 1st December, 2008.

In expressing his appreciation of the work undertaken to improve the ambience of the western side of Halesowen, a member of the public reminded the Committee that other parts of the town still required attention, making particular reference to the condition of the Pool Road car park and Summer Square. He also advocated the planting of trees and flowers.

On consideration of the report, in relation to the issue of trading in Halesowen and the need to encourage shoppers into the town, and to the implications of the opening of the new Asda Superstore on other traders, the Committee resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted

- (2) That, in order to encourage shoppers to patronise Halesowen, the appropriate Cabinet Member(s) be recommended that free parking be made available from 24th November to 14th December, 2008 and that arrangements also be made for Vale Retail, Centro and Asda to be encouraged to provide incentives such as vouchers and free gifts with a view to attracting shoppers and visitors to the town.

60

OLDNALL ROAD AND MOGUL LANE –SPEED OF TRAFFIC

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted advising the Committee of the traffic situation at Oldnall Road and Mogul Lane and which sought views on the inclusion of the matter in a future year's safety scheme programme.

One of the members in whose wards the roads were situated reported that the issue has been raised regularly at meetings of Partnerships and Communities Together. Notwithstanding the information in the report that excessive speed had not been highlighted specifically as a contributory factor to the three year accident record referred to, recorded speeds of up to 70 mph had been reported at such meetings. The same member also drew attention to the number of accidents that had occurred when the road was wet and suggested that the issues of excessive speed and flooding needed to be looked at together when consideration was given to the inclusion of the roads in a future year's safety scheme programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the situation, as set out in the report, and the existing measures to improve the safety record of Oldnall Road and Mogul Lane, be noted and that the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended, subject to funding, to include the roads for further consideration in a future year's safety scheme programme.
- (2) That, in determining the matter, the Cabinet Member also be asked to consider the comments of the member, as recorded above, in relation to the necessity for the issues of excessive speed and flooding to be taken account of together in determining the feasibility of a safety scheme for the roads.

61

WOLLESCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL – SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted seeking the views of the Committee on the provision of improved footway facilities in the vicinity of Wollescote Primary School, Cradley, by the introduction of a road narrowing scheme.

RESOLVED

That, subject to further consultation with Wollescote Primary School, the Cabinet Member for Transportation be recommended that the inclusion of a proposal as part of the Council's Safer Routes to School programme be considered for 2009/10.

62 CRADLEY/WINDMILL HILL WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted providing an update on the delivery of the Cradley/Windmill Hill Local Centre Regeneration Plan. A supplementary report on the outcome of issues raised at the meeting of the Group held on 4th November, 2008 had been circulated to the Committee following despatch of the agenda and was also considered.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report, together with the supplementary report, be noted.
 - (2) That the co-option to the Working Group of Mr Kevin Powis, a local resident of Cradley, as a speaking but non-voting member for the remainder of the current municipal year, be approved.
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63 COMMUNITY RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

A report of the Area Liaison Officer on the outcome of the meeting of the Community Renewal Working Group held on 29th October, 2008, which had been circulated following the despatch of the agenda, was considered.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

64 DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee, as set out below, were noted:

22nd January 2009 – Hurst Green Primary School
11th March 2009 – Lutley Community Centre

65 SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

Dates and meetings of the respective Select Committees for the remainder of the current municipal year were received and noted.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm

CHAIRMAN